

THE INDEPENDENT

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WOULD PUT LOUIS AND MACK IN ONE CORNER

Saunders Introduces a Bill to Subdivide Elizabeth City Wards—Will Increase Register of Deeds' Salary, But—

BY W. O. SAUNDERS

J. W. Munden, Register of Deeds and clerk ex-officio to the Board of Commissioners of Pasquotank county, wants his salary raised from \$2,100 to \$2,400 a year. More than 350 property owners and tax payers in Pasquotank have petitioned your representative to grant Mr. Munden the raise. The office of Register of Deeds has to pay all of his clerical expenses out of that sum. Mr. Munden himself is a most efficient officer, a courteous and obliging gentleman and a valuable county asset. Nevertheless your representative has opposed raising the salary of the Register of Deeds. This opposition is based largely upon the fact that the Register of Deeds also holds the office of Justice of the Peace and, in addition to the salary which he now receives, gets considerable remuneration from marriage licenses.

It is a notorious fact that Registers of Deeds in the border counties of North Carolina act as Justices of the Peace, issuing licenses to wed and then marrying their licensees. This dual role occupied by Registers of Deeds is odious to every sense of decency and offensive to a true democracy. It encourages bigamy and unlawful weddings. It makes the marriage contract between irresponsible and unfit persons too easily obtainable.

After carefully considering the application of Mr. Munden and his petition for an increase in salary, your Representative has, without consultation with any other person, drawn a bill which he has submitted to Mr. Munden for his approval. The bill will increase the salary of the Register of Deeds of Pasquotank County provided he ceases to be a Justice of the Peace. If the office of Justice of the Peace is worth more to him than the raise in salary, he can keep the office of Justice of the Peace and let his salary remain as it is. Here is the bill:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED, "AN ACT TO REGULATE THE SALARY OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OF PASQUOTANK COUNTY."

The General Assembly of North Carolina do Enact:

Section 1. That the salary of the Register of Deeds of Pasquotank County shall be two thousand four hundred dollars (\$2,400.00) per annum, provided the Register of Deeds of Pasquotank County shall hold no other office of profit during his term of office as Register of Deeds and clerk ex-officio to the Board of Commissioners of Pasquotank County.

Section 2. That if the Register of Deeds of Pasquotank County elects to hold the office or position of Justice of the Peace while occupying the office of Register of Deeds, his salary shall be as heretofore provided in chapter 61, Public Local Laws of 1915 as amended by chapter 256, Public Local Laws of 1917.

Section 3. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this statute are hereby repealed.

Section 4. That this act shall be in effect from and after March 1st, 1919.

Your Representative has introduced only one bill effecting the town charter of Elizabeth City. He introduced a bill Wednesday providing for a subdivision of the wards of Elizabeth City, giving each ward two subdivisions and permitting each subdivision to choose its own Alderman. The subdivisions of the First and Second Wards may not meet with the approval of the Mack Sawyers machine, because they throw Mack Sawyer and Louis Anderson into one subdivision and J. B. Ferebee, Mathias Owens, Tully Wilson, et al into one subdivision. Under this arrangement it will be impossible for any neighborhood group in any ward to control the election of both Aldermen from that ward. Big!

Many of our soldiers have been thru the excitement both of a charge and a discharge.

AN UNUSUAL SERVICE

The country is full of good eye specialists and there are hundreds of good eye glass manufacturers, but it is worth something to Elizabeth City and vicinity to know that both can be found in this town. Dr. Hathaway is not only a reputable and skillful optometrist, but he grinds and fits glasses on his premises. This unusual service is seldom found except in much larger cities.

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY
OPTOMETRIST
Over McCabe & Grice
Elizabeth City, N. C.

Will Pry Pasquotank Out of The Mud



HE HAS A NEW GAME LAW



E. R. JOHNSON

MR. JOHNSON is the Representative of Currituck County in the present General Assembly and is making a specialty of minding his own business—which, by the way, seems to be a popular thing for a Representative to do. Mr. Johnson has recently offered a bill which amends the game laws so as to permit nonresident gunners to shoot ducks from batteries in Currituck sound, providing they pay a license of \$75 each season for the privilege. Nonresidents who pay the tax will be permitted to shoot from batteries owned by residents of Currituck county and no resident will be permitted to own more than one battery. The tax money derived from licenses to nonresidents will be applied to the school fund of Currituck county.

THE SQUIRREL GIVEN A YEAR OF FREEDOM

Bill To Prohibit Hunting Squirrels In This County For One Year

The squirrels of Pasquotank County, at least, will probably appreciate a new lease of life that has been given them by a bill introduced by Representative Saunders this week. The bill was drafted upon petition of a large number of sportsmen and farmers who want squirrel hunting in Pasquotank abolished until December 1, 1920. The bill makes it unlawful to hunt squirrels any more until that date and, after that, it will be legal to kill squirrels in Pasquotank only in the months of December and January. This will give the squirrels a chance to enjoy the privilege of being fruitful and multiplying. Incidentally it will rob a lot of loafers of an excuse to keep from useful labor. Here is an exact copy of the Saunders Bill. Any who oppose it can get a hearing by wiring to Representative Saunders and asking him to hold the bill up until a hearing can be arranged.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED "AN ACT TO REGULATE SQUIRREL HUNTING IN PASQUOTANK COUNTY."

The General Assembly of North Carolina do Enact:

Section 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt or kill squirrels in Pasquotank county until the first day of December, nineteen hundred and twenty (Dec. 1, 1920), and thereafter it shall be unlawful to hunt or kill squirrel except in the months of December and January. Persons violating this law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined twenty dollars or imprisoned thirty days for each offense.

Section 2. All laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this statute are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This act shall be in full force and effect from and after its ratification.

LEADS FIGHT FOR STATE'S KIDDIES

The Saunders Child Labor Bill Has Strong Support

The Hall of the House of Representatives was packed at the hearing Wednesday night and the galleries were overflowing with friends of the measure, judging from the applause given every speech in behalf of the Saunders bill. Among those present in support of the measure were: Dr. W. L. Potat, president of the North Carolina Conference for Social Service; Clarence Poe, editor of the Progressive Farmer; Dr. J. Y. Joyner; Dr. G. M. Cooper, of the State Board of Health; Mrs. Clarence Johnson; Mrs. Jno. S. Cunningham; representatives of organized labor and others. Every leading newspaper in the state, with one notable exception, favors the Saunders Bill. The Saunders Bill conforms with the new Federal child labor regulations and creates machinery to enforce the law, placing that machinery in the hands of the Commissioner of Labor.

A VAGRANCY LAW WITH A GOOD SET OF TEETH

Gentlemen of leisure, sometimes known as vagrants, will exist in defiance of the statutes even if they have visible means of support if the bill introduced by Senator Long of Montgomery late in the afternoon session Monday receives favorable action by the legislature. This is the first vagrancy law introduced, and it has teeth in it. The bill proposes to strike out the phrase "without visible means of support" and substitute therefor words which will require all persons to work of they are physically and mentally able to do so, no matter what their means of support consists of.

GROUND HOG LOSES OUT, TWIDDY'S GOT HIS SKIN

One Elizabeth City citizen is not at all puzzled over the fact that the Ground Hog has lost his position and prestige as a weather prophet. George W. Twiddy, the Pointdexter Street grocer, boasts that he has the skin of the Ground Hog in his show window. He displays the skin with a great deal of pride and says as he holds the animal's skin he doesn't anticipate any trouble from him.

CARD OF THANKS
I want to thank my friends for their kindness rendered us in the accident of my little son, Clarence.
HARRY BAILEY.

LEGAL HOLIDAY
THE BANKS OF THE CITY WILL BE CLOSED
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22
Washington's Birthday
Customers will please take notice and make prior arrangements for Pay Rolls and such other services as will serve their convenience.
FIRST & CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK SAVINGS BANK & TRUST COMPANY

MEANS \$500,000 A YEAR FOR N. C. POTATO GROWERS

Bill Introduced by W. O. Saunders Will Protect Honest Grower Who Grades His Potatoes And Penalize The Crook

Representative W. O. Saunders has introduced a bill, in the House of Representatives, which he believes will, among other things put a half million dollars annually into the pockets of eastern North Carolina potato growers.

It is a notorious fact that North Carolina potatoes sell for 25 cents to 50 cents a barrel less than potatoes grown on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and elsewhere because buyers and commission men generally have no confidence in North Carolina grades. The Saunders bill will establish confidence in the grade of North Carolina potatoes and penalize every crooked grower who tries to palm off inferior potatoes for standard grades. Under the Saunders bill the grower who grades his potatoes honestly will be protected and enabled to get the highest market price for his product. The grower who will not grade his potatoes honestly will be compelled to mark his potatoes "Not Graded." The law is simple, fair and meets the demands of elemental honesty and fair dealing.

North Carolina's potato crop last year is estimated to have totaled 2,235,699 barrels, as follows:

Early Irish	1,056,000 barrels
Earl Sweets	32,500 barrels
Late Irish	100,000 barrels
Late Sweets	1,000,000 barrels

One can easily estimate the annual loss to North Carolina growers by reason of the fact that buyers and commission men make it a rule to pay 25 to 50 cents off every barrel of North Carolina potatoes, because buyers and commission men have no assurance that North Carolina potatoes are properly graded. The Saunders bill is designed to give the North Carolina potato a better standing on the country's markets. For the information of potato growers in northeastern North Carolina THE INDEPENDENT offers the full text of the bill.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD PACKAGES, GRADES, STATE BRANDS AND OTHER REGULATIONS."

The General Assembly of North Carolina do Enact:

Section 1. The purpose of this act is to give authority to investigate marketing conditions and to establish and maintain standard grades and pack requirements in such amount as they may deem advisable, conditioned upon the faithful performance of duties by any employer or agent.

Section 2. The Board of Agriculture is charged with the execution of the provisions of this act and has authority to employ such agents and assistants as may be necessary, fix their compensation and provide for the payment of their salaries and expenses out of the funds of the State.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Board of Agriculture to investigate the subject of marketing farm products, to diffuse useful information relating thereto, and to furnish the name and assistance to the public in order to promote efficient and economical methods of marketing farm products, and to disseminate information concerning the supply, demand, prevailing prices and commercial movement of farm products, including quantities, grades and standards, and may interchange such information with the United States Department of Agriculture.

Section 4. After investigation, and from time to time, as may be practical and advisable, the Board shall have authority to establish and promulgate standards of opened and closed receptacles for, and standards for the grades and other classification of farm products by which their quantity, quality and value may be determined and prevented from becoming deceptive in reference thereto, and for the purpose of establishing a state brand for any farm product produced in North Carolina provided that no standard established or any requirement for marking receptacles for farm products, now or hereafter established under authority of the Congress of the United States, shall forthwith, as far as applicable, be established or prescribed, and promulgated as that of the State.

Section 5. Any person convicted of a misdemeanor under this act shall be punished by fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than thirty days, or by both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

Section 15. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are repealed. If any part of this Act be declared unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remaining parts of the Act shall not hereby be affected or impaired. This Act shall not be construed so as to conflict with any statute of the United States regulating commerce among the several states, or in any place under the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States.

Section 16. This Act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

W. O. SAUNDERS "SAFE" BEHIND PRISON BARS
Was Guest of Superintendent of State Prison, With Other Members Of Lower House

A number of members of the Penal Institutions Committee of the House of Representatives, including Representative Saunders, of Pasquotank, were the guests of J. R. Collier, Superintendent of the State Prison, at a dinner given at the penitentiary Monday night. Thus was fulfilled the ancient desire of certain gentlemen to see Saunders "safely" behind prison bars. He was very safe and enjoyed his dinner. After a delightful feed and a smoke a number of the members were shown the electric chair. Its operation was cheerfully explained by the grim executioner, Warden S. J. Busbee. Warden Busbee plainly indicated that he was no sympathizer with Saunders' late legislative measure to abolish his artistic method of killing.